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PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MONDAY: ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	WEDNESDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	FRIDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	SATURDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.
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Trump signs new stablecoin regulations into law, a major milestone for crypto industry

By SEUNG MIN KIM and ALAN SUDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday signed into law new regulations for a type of cryptocurrency, a major milestone for an industry that has spent heavily to strengthen its legitimacy and political might.

The GENIUS Act sets initial guardrails and consumer protections for stablecoins, which are tied to assets like the U.S. dollar to reduce price volatility compared with other forms of cryptocurrency. It passed both the House and Senate with wide bipartisan margins.

The new law is meant to bolster consumer confidence in the crypto industry, which has quickly become a major power player in Washington thanks to massive campaign donations and spending on lobbying. Its passage comes as Trump had repeatedly pledged to make the U.S. the "crypto capital of the world."

"For years you were mocked and dismissed and counted out," Trump told crypto industry executives at a White House bill signing attended by about 200 people, including several top GOP lawmakers. "This signing is a massive valida-



President Donald Trump holds up the GENIUS Act, a bill that regulates stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency, after he signs the bill in the East Room of the White House, Friday, July 18, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

tion of your hard work and your pioneering spirit."

The crypto industry has long complained it was unfairly targeted by former President Joe Biden's administration and spent heavily to help Trump win last year's election.

The president lavished praise on crypto leaders during his speech Friday, saying "nobody has gained the respect in such a short period of time."

Trump said helping the

cryptocurrency industry was "good for the dollar and it's good for the country."

"That's why I backed you at an early stage," said Trump, who had previously been a skeptic of cryptocurrency before embracing it. His administration has taken several early steps to boost the crypto industry, including the Securities and Exchange Commission dropping several enforcement actions against large

crypto companies.

Trump then added a candid admission about the political calculus of his support for the crypto industry: "And I also did it for the votes," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

The president also joked that lawmakers had named the GENIUS Act after him. The acronym stands for "Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins."

The use of stablecoins has grown dramatically in recent years. Circle, the U.S.-based issuer of one of the most popular cryptocurrencies, made its debut on the New York Stock Exchange earlier this year and quickly saw its value soar amid heavy interest from crypto enthusiasts and investors. Stablecoin issuers make profits by collecting the interest on the assets they hold in reserve to back their stablecoins.

A provision in the GENIUS Act bans members of Congress and their families from profiting off stablecoins. But that prohibition does not extend to the president and his family, even as Trump builds a crypto empire from the White House. His family holds a significant stake in World Liberty Financial, a crypto project that launched its own stablecoin earlier this year and received an early boost from an investment fund in the United Arab Emirates.

The House also passed two other bills Thursday that are meant to help the crypto industry. One creates a new market structure for cryptocurrency, and the other bans the Federal Reserve from issuing a new digital currency. Both measures now go to the Senate. □

Hegseth tells lawmakers about plan to detain immigrants at bases in Indiana and New Jersey



Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth speaks during a meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz at the Pentagon, Friday, July 18, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

By DAVID KLEPPER and KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth says bases in Indiana and New Jersey can house detained immigrants without affecting military readiness a step toward potentially detaining thousands of people on bases on U.S. soil.

Hegseth notified members of Congress from both states this week of the proposal to temporarily house detained immigrants at Camp Atterbury in Indiana, and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey. President Donald Trump has moved to aggressively detain and deport people in the country illegally, a push that has swept up large numbers of immigrants, including many with no prior criminal records, and forced federal authorities to find places to house them. Hegseth said the presence of

the detainees would not negatively affect the bases' operations or training. Officials have not said when detainees could begin arriving at the facilities or if other military bases are under consideration.

Speaking to reporters outside the White House, Trump's border czar Tom Homan said there are about 60,000 beds currently available for detained immigrants and the goal is to expand to 100,000. "We're looking for any available bed space we can get that meets the detention standards we're accustomed to," Homan said Friday. "The faster we get the beds, the more people we can take off the street." Democratic lawmakers from both states and civil rights advocates condemned the idea of housing immigrants at the bases, questioning the impact on military resources and the justification for so many detentions. □

Trump's birthright citizenship order remains blocked as lawsuits march on after Supreme Court ruling

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's plan to end birthright citizenship for the children of people who are in the U.S. illegally will remain blocked as an order from one judge went into effect Friday and another seemed inclined to follow suit.

U.S. District Judge Joseph LaPlante in New Hampshire had paused his own decision to allow for the Trump administration to appeal, but with no appeal filed in the last week his order went into effect.

"The judge's order protects every single child whose citizenship was called into question by this illegal executive order," Cody Wofsy, the ACLU attorney representing children who would be affected by Trump's restrictions, said.

"The government has not appealed and has not sought emergency relief so this injunction is now in effect everywhere in the country."

The Trump administration could still appeal or even ask that LaPlante's order be narrowed but the effort to end birthright citizenship for children of parents who are in the U.S. illegally or temporarily can't take effect for now.

The Justice Department



Hannah Liu, 26, of Washington, holds up a sign in support of birthright citizenship, May 15, 2025, outside of the Supreme Court in Washington. "This is enshrined in the Constitution. My parents are Chinese immigrants," says Liu. "They came here on temporary visas so I derive my citizenship through birthright."

Associated Press

didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

Meanwhile, a judge in Boston heard arguments from more than a dozen states who say Trump's birthright citizenship order is blatantly unconstitutional and threatens millions of dollars for essential services. The issue is expected to move quickly back to the nation's highest court.

U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin was asked to consider either keeping in place the

nationwide injunction he granted earlier or consider a request from the government either to narrow the scope of that order or stay it altogether.

Sorokin, located in Boston, did not immediately rule but seemed to be receptive to arguments from states to keep the injunction in place.

Lawyers for the government had argued Sorokin should narrow the reach of his earlier ruling granting a preliminary injunction, ar-

guing it should be "tailored to the States' purported financial injuries."

Much of the hearing was focused on what a narrower ruling would look like. The plaintiffs raised concerns that some alternatives floated by the Trump administration such as giving children in states impacted by the birthright citizenship order social security numbers, but not citizenship would be costly and unworkable.

They said such a system

would burden these states with having to set up new administrative systems, sow confusion among the parents whose children are impacted and possibly turn these states into magnets for families from other states looking to access the benefits.

Government lawyers didn't seem tied to any one alternative, but told Sorokin the scope of his injunction should be limited. When pressed on how they would do that, a lawyer for the government, Eric Hamilton, would only commit to complying with whatever order was issued.

"If the court modifies the preliminary injunction or stays the preliminary injunction, it should be at most tailored to injuries plaintiffs are alleging which are primary financial," Hamilton said.

Sorokin pushed back, at one point using an analogy of someone who sued a neighbor over loud music. The defendant offers to build a wall to limit the noise but Sorokin wondered how they could ensure it met the zoning code and was something the defendant could afford.

"What you are telling me is we will do it but, in response to my question, you have no answer how you will do it," Sorokin said. □

Lawyer argues Call of Duty maker can't be held responsible for actions of Uvalde, Texas, shooter

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A lawyer for the maker of the video game Call of Duty argued Friday that a judge should dismiss a lawsuit brought by families of the victims of the Robb Elementary School attack in Uvalde, Texas, saying the contents of the war game are protected by the First Amendment.

The families sued Call of Duty maker Activision and Meta Platforms, which owns Instagram, saying that the companies bear responsibility for products used by the teenage gunman.

Three sets of parents who lost children in the shooting were in the audience at the Los Angeles hearing.

Activision lawyer Bethany Kristovich told

Superior Court Judge William Highberger that the "First Amendment bars their claims, period full stop."

"The issues of gun violence are incredibly difficult," Kristovich said.

"The evidence in this case is not."

She argued that the case has little chance of prevailing if it continues, because courts have repeatedly held that "creators of artistic works, whether they be books, music, movies, TV or video games, cannot be held legally liable for the acts of their audience."

The lawsuit, one of many involving Uvalde families, was filed last year on the second anniversary of one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history.

The gunman killed 19 students and two teachers. □



From left, Felix Rubio, Kim Rubio and attorney Josh Koskoff arrive for a court hearing in a lawsuit between victims' families in the 2022 Uvalde, Texas school shooting and Meta Platforms on Friday, July 18, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Blast at training facility kills 3 Los Angeles deputies in one of department's worst losses of life

By ETIENNE LAURENT, ERIC TUCKER and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Friday blast at a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department training facility killed three members of its arson and explosives unit, marking one of the department's worst losses of life from a single incident, the sheriff said.

All three were veteran deputies. The department hasn't said what they were doing at the time of the blast or what caused it.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said the arson and explosives team undergoes in-depth training and responds to more than 1,000 calls a year. The deputies had served 19, 22 and 33 years in the department, Luna said. "They have years of training," the sheriff said at a news conference. "They are fantastic experts and, unfortunately, I lost three of them today."

The explosion was reported



Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna gets a hug from Supervisor Kathryn Barger as he arrives for a press conference after three members of the department were killed in an explosion at a training facility on Friday, July 18, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

ed about 7:30 a.m. at the Biscailuz Training Facility, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spokesperson Nicole Nishida said.

Aerial footage from KABC-TV shows the explosion hap-

pened in a parking lot filled with sheriff's patrol cars and box trucks. Three covered bodies could be seen near a truck with a ramp attached to a side door. A patrol cruiser parked near-

by had its rearview mirror shattered by the blast.

Luna said it took more than four hours to render the scene safe and the deaths are being investigated by the department's homicide

detectives, with the assistance of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. No one else was injured in the explosion, he said.

An early line of investigation was looking at a possible training accident, according to a law enforcement official briefed on the matter who was not authorized to discuss it and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

In a post on X, Attorney General Pam Bondi said the explosion "appears to be a horrific incident" and federal agents are at the scene to learn more.

"Please pray for the families of the sheriff's deputies killed," Bondi wrote.

Luna said the deaths marked the department's worst loss of life in a single incident since 1857, when four officers were killed by gunfire, and noted that he couldn't release the deputies' names because he had yet to speak to one of the families. □

Man accused of stockpiling bombs, using Biden photo for target practice, pleads guilty

By BEN FINLEY

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A Virginia man pleaded guilty Friday in a federal case that accused him of stockpiling the largest number of finished explosives in FBI history and of using then-President Joe Biden's photo for target practice. Brad Spafford pleaded guilty in federal court in Norfolk to possession of an unregistered short barrel rifle and possession of an unregistered destructive device, according to court documents. Each count carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. His sentencing is scheduled for December. Federal authorities said they seized about 150 pipe bombs and other homemade devices last fall at Spafford's home in Isle of Wight County, which is northwest of Norfolk.

The investigation into Spafford began in 2023 when an informant told authorities that Spafford was stockpiling weapons and ammunition, according to court documents. The informant, a friend and member of law enforcement, told au-

thorities that Spafford was using pictures of then-President Joe Biden for target practice and that "he believed political assassinations should be brought back," prosecutors wrote. Two weeks after the assassination attempt of then-

presidential candidate Donald Trump in 2024, Spafford told the informant, "bro I hope the shooter doesn't miss Kamala," according to court documents. Former Vice President Kamala Harris had recently announced she was running for president. On around the same day, Spafford told the informant that he was pursuing a sniper qualification at the local gun range, court records stated.

Numerous law enforcement officers and bomb technicians searched the property in December. Spafford stored a highly unstable explosive material in a garage freezer next to "Hot Pockets and frozen corn on the cob," according to court documents. Investigators also said they found explosive devices in an unsecured backpack labeled "#NoLivesMatter."

Spafford has remained in jail since his arrest last December. U.S. District Judge Arenda L. Wright Allen ruled against his release last January, writing that Spafford has "shown the capacity for extreme danger." She also noted that Spafford lost three fingers in an accident involving homemade explosives in 2021.

Spafford had initially pleaded not guilty to the charges in January. Defense attorneys had argued at the time that Spafford, who is married and a father of two young daughters, works a steady job as a machinist and has no criminal record. Defense attorney Jeffrey Swartz said at Spafford's January detention hearing that investigators had gathered information on him since January 2023, during which Spafford never threatened anyone. □



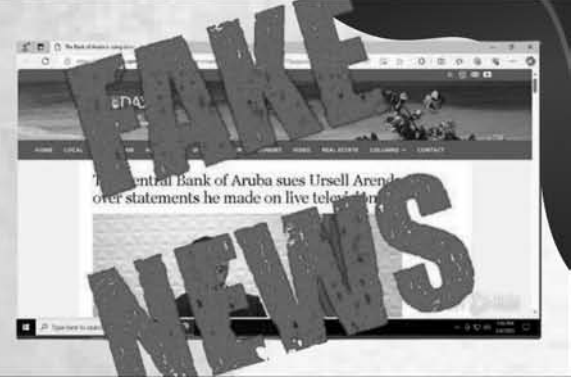
This image provided by U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia shows a stockpile of homemade explosives Federal agents seized when they arrested Brad Spafford, a Virginia man on a firearms charge in Dec. 2024.

Associated Press

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U.K. sanctions Russian intelligence officers who targeted Mariupol theater and family of poisoned spy

By EMMA BURROWS
European Security Correspondent

LONDON (AP) — The U.K. on Friday sanctioned Russian military intelligence units and officers it said were behind preparations for a 2022 bomb attack on a theater in southern Ukraine that killed hundreds of civilians.

Britain's foreign ministry said it sanctioned 18 officers working for Russian military intelligence, known as the GRU, along with three units. It said the officers were also accused of targeting the family of a former Russian spy who was later poisoned in the U.K. with a nerve agent.

More than 70 different attacks since 2022 have been attributed to Russia by Western officials who say the goal is to sow chaos across Europe, undermine European societies and support for Ukraine. The Associated Press has tracked the alleged sabotage and disruption, ranging from cy-



A view inside the Mariupol theater damaged during fighting in Mariupol, in territory under the government of the Donetsk People's Republic, eastern Ukraine, Monday, April 4, 2022.

Associated Press

berattacks and propaganda to arson and attempted assassination.

Britain's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said part of that campaign likely included accessing CCTV cameras

near military facilities, ports, train stations and border crossings in Ukraine, Moldova and 11 NATO countries including in the U.S. to track foreign aid shipments to Ukraine.

"GRU spies are running

a campaign to destabilize Europe, undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and threaten the safety of British citizens," U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy said.

On March 15, 2022, shortly after Russia invaded

Ukraine, Unit 26165 carried out online reconnaissance on civilian bomb shelters in Mariupol, southern Ukraine and in Kharkiv, eastern Ukraine, the FCDO said. One of the targets was the Mariupol theater where civilians sheltering from Russian bombs had painted the word "children" outside in the hope of sparing them.

The next day, the theater was hit by Russian airstrikes which killed around 600 people, including many children, according to an Associated Press investigation.

In 2013, officers from the same unit used malware to target email accounts belonging to the daughter of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal, the foreign ministry said. In 2018, Skripal and his daughter Yulia were poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok in the English city of Salisbury, in an attack the British government said was organized by Russian intelligence. □

Trinidad and Tobago imposes another state of emergency after uncovering plot to kill key officials



The country's coat of arms is displayed on the facade of a government building in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Aug. 20, 2024.

Associated Press

By ANSELM GIBBS
Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Trinidad and Tobago declared a new state of emergency Friday after authorities accused a criminal network operating in prisons across the country of plotting to kill key government officials and attack public institutions. It's the second state of emergency to be declared in the twin-island republic in a matter of months. Last December, authorities took similar action citing concerns about gang violence. That state of emergency lasted until mid-April. Police said that smuggled cell phones enabled those involved in the plot to exchange encrypted mes-

sages. Months of intelligence gathering led investigators to believe the targets included senior police officers, members of the judiciary and employees at the state prosecution office, police said. There were no particular threats to any politicians, police said. "They were planning, actively so, to carry out assassinations, robberies, and kidnappings." Police Commissioner Allister Guevarro said at a news conference. Police described those involved as "a coordinated and highly dangerous criminal network." Guevarro said the intelligence report prompted him to recommend that newly elected Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar declare the emergency. □

Cambodia continues raids on scam centers, bringing arrests in past 3 weeks over 2,100

By SOPHENG CHEANG

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Authorities in Cambodia continued their stepped-up campaign against online scam centers, arresting at least 500 suspects in two provinces on Thursday and Friday, the country's information minister said.

The arrests in Kandal province on the outskirts of the capital Phnom Penh, and in the northeastern province of Stung Treng, brought to 2,137 the total number detained since June 27, Information Minister Neth Pheaktra said in a statement.

Those netted in raids in 43 locations around the country included 429 Vietnamese, 271 Indonesians, 589 Chinese, 57 Koreans, 70 Bangladeshi and 42 Pakistanis, said his statement. Other suspects were from Thailand, Laos, India, Nepal, the Philippines and Myanmar.

The United Nations and other agencies have estimated that cyberscams, most of them originating from Southeast Asia, earn international criminal gangs billions of dollars annually. The cybercriminals pretend friendship or tout phony in-



In this photo provided by state news service Agence Kampuchea Press, alleged online scammers stand next to their tools collected by authorities at its site in a classroom on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Friday, July 18, 2025.

Associated Press

vestment opportunities to cheat their targets around the world.

Neth Pheaktra's statement said Cambodia's crackdown is ongoing "and will absolutely continue, with a clear mandate from the top leadership to root out all illegal cybercrime activity regardless of location or

affiliation."

He said it was strengthened by a directive issued Monday by Prime Minister Hun Manet that threatened state personnel at all levels with transfers or dismissal if they failed to act vigorously against cyberscams.

The latest arrests followed 2,418 others in the first six

months of the year involving 18 alleged scam operations in different parts of the country, said a report from the National Police Commissioner cited by Neth Pheaktra.

These resulted in 73 prosecutions and 2,322 foreigners being deported, it said.

Workers at scam centers

are often recruited under false pretenses and then held captive to work under tight guard.

"Jobseekers from Asia and beyond are lured by the promise of well-paid work into hellish labour camps run by well-organized gangs, where they are forced to scam under the very real threat of violence," the human rights groups Amnesty International said in a report issued last month.

It said the findings of its 18-month investigation into cyberscams "suggest there has been coordination and possibly collusion between Chinese compound bosses and the Cambodian police, who have failed to shut down compounds despite the slew of human rights abuses taking place inside." The kingpins of many online scam operations tend to be ethnic Chinese organized crime bosses, who generally operate outside China in areas with weak law enforcement.

A spokesperson for the Cambodian human rights organization Licadho, which is often critical of the government, noted the country's poor reputation due to cybercrime, and welcomed the crackdown. □

Germany deports 81 Afghan men to their homeland in 2nd flight since the Taliban's return

By GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany deported dozens of Af-

ghan men to their homeland on Friday, the second time it has done so since the Taliban returned to

power and the first since a new government pledging a tougher line on migration took office in Berlin.

German authorities said a flight took off Friday morning carrying 81 Afghans, all of them men who had previously come to judicial authorities' attention and had asylum applications rejected.

Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the deportation was carried out with the help of Qatar and was preceded by weeks of negotiations. He also said there were contacts with Afghanistan, but didn't elaborate.

More than 10 months ago, Germany's previous government deported Afghan nationals to their homeland

for the first time since the Taliban returned to power in 2021. Then-Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed to step up deportations of failed asylum-seekers.

Merz noted that, while diplomatic relations between Germany and Afghanistan have not formally been broken off, Berlin does not recognize the Taliban government in Kabul.

"The decisive question is how one deals with this regime, and it will remain at technical coordination until further notice," he said at a news conference in Berlin. Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, visiting Paris, said that "there is no expansion of relations and no recognition of the regime

there." The Interior Ministry said the government aims to carry out more deportations to Afghanistan, but didn't specify when that might happen.

Merz made tougher migration policy a central plank of his campaign for Germany's election in February.

Just after he took office in early May, the government stationed more police at the border stepping up border checks introduced by the Scholz government and said some asylum-seekers trying to enter Europe's biggest economy would be turned away. It has also suspended family reunions for many migrants. □



People board a Qatar Airways plane, with federal police vehicles in front of it, on the apron at Leipzig/Halle Airport, Friday, July 18, 2025, Saxony, Schkeuditz.

Associated Press

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrates some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

Picuda, Sphyræna barracuda, Greater Barracuda

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is *Sphyræna barracuda*. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called

"ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.



In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once

hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island



(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vul-

nerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and com-

poser, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foun-

dation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

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Drunken Burger: Flip your Expectations



ORANJESTAD – The adventure continues in Drunken Burger with location in the Cove Mall at this establishment is where the creativity rules the grill

With 21-of -a-kind Burgers, we turn comfort food into a flavor playground. From the outrageous King Kong Burger to the decadent Chicken Alfredo Burger and the fans favorite Spaghetti & Meatball Burger our menu is made for the bold.

Feeling brave? Sink your teeth into Drunken Burger infused with bold Jack Daniel's flavor. It is a true flavor bomb that packs a serious kick.

And also for our gluten-free guests you are more than welcome. Any Burger can be served as a lettuce burger no bun required.

Vegetarian? We have got you covered too. Try our creamy Risotto Burger, sizzling Veggie Tacos, or flavorful Veggie Fajitas.

But it doesn't stop at burgers our menu also features zesty Mexican favorites, fresh seafood and a crave of worthy pastas.

Whether you are here for a casual bite or a bold culinary adventure one thing is for sure: you won't leave hungry.

"You can taste the meat without eating the bun?" We respectfully disagree. Come ready to indulge explore and enjoy.

Drunken Burger kitchen is daily open from 11am -11pm. ☐



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names,

likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Trish Neitzel, Portland, OR, USA

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me are gorgeous sunsets in front of Aruba Beach Club, our home away from home since 2002."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐



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Nanzi fools Cha Tiger**

Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said. "Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense." "I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is.



Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!" "Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are." Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.



Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.
Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.

Snakes you may encounter on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—If you have ever or will ever go off-roading on the island, you may encounter three types of snakes that are dominant on the island. The Cascabel, Santanero and Boa differ from each other in a couple ways, and local perspective on each one may help you understand what you need to do if you ever were to encounter one during your touring session on the island.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. In fact, it's the only venomous snake native to the island. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it, as it could not only be dangerous, but

this snake is also endemic to the island, and its preservation has become a legal mandate for all residents and visitors. Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol. Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.



Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is a small fella, typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. Native as well to the island, this snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans, but can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the is-

land was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous but are what is called constrictor snakes; they kill by wrapping themselves around a prey and suffocating them. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly in white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species and are invasive to the island, risking the population of native lizards and birds. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. If you ever encounter a Boa, please do not approach it. Instead, please call the Arikok National Park, as they are experienced in handling Boas. □



Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name



came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which

together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Anaboio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin

that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and it's meaning.

During the second world war and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official

name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.□



Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

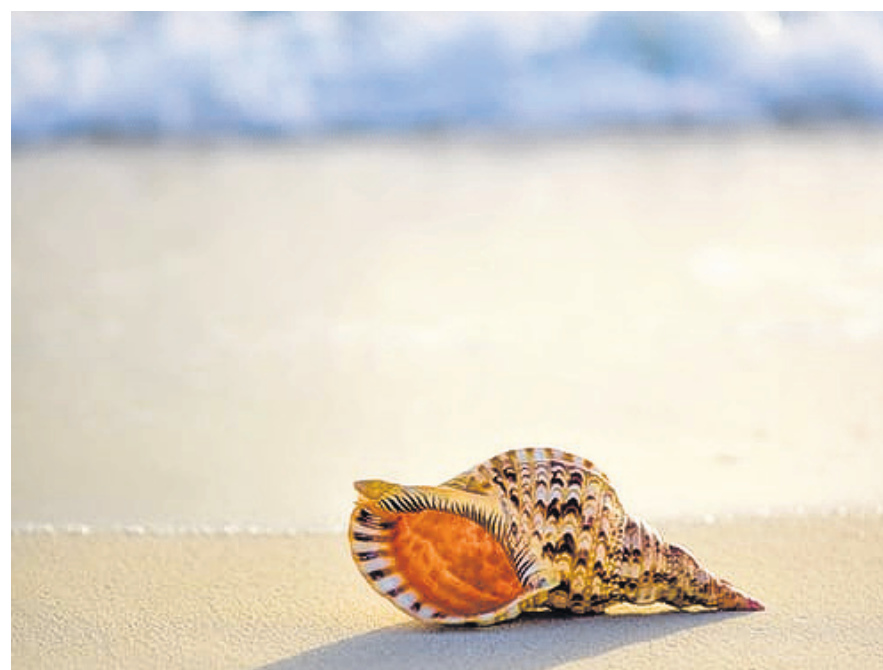
(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable. Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they

have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours!□



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

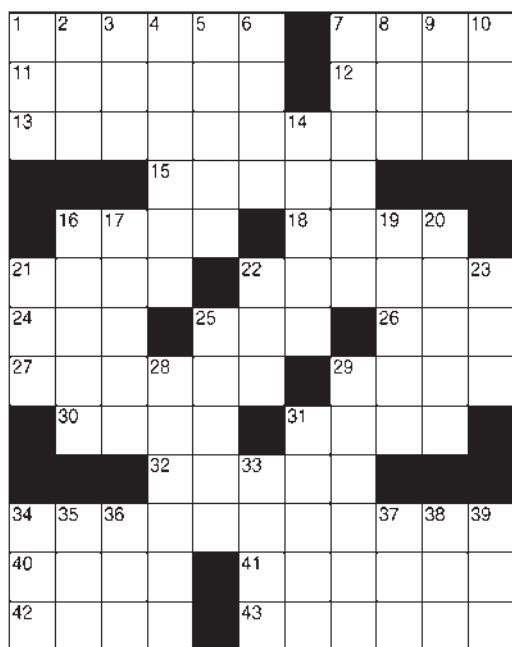
- 1 Low points
7 Kaffiyeh wearer
11 Broad street
12 Long skirt
13 Supported
15 Debate topic
16 "In — veritas"
18 Golf bunker
21 Join the choir
22 Latitude
24 Refinery supply
25 Black goo
26 "— you for real?"
27 Sack material
29 Sacred chests
30 Mix up
31 Entreaty
32 Shopworn
34 Re-activated
40 Words of understanding
41 Canada's capital
42 Rock group
43 Put online

DOWN

- 1 Arrest

REHAB COMMA
ATIME AWAIT
TAMPA LENTO
EURO YEP
STARTERS
LOSS FIESTA
ATEAM EMAIL
PEANUT ISLE
DRENCHES
HIP DAYO
IDAHO ELATE
TOPIC TOWER
SLASH SNEER

- 2 Gardner of movies
3 Last mo.
4 Comic book work
5 Rene of "Get Shorty"
6 Collec-tions
7 Current unit
8 Grammys category
9 Chopping tool
10 Bridge action
14 External
16 Computer woe
17 Like argon
19 In the know
20 Winter coat
21 Cry loudly
22 Napkin spot
23 "You bet!"
25 Bakery buys
28 Had a speech problem
29 Tips off
31 Student of Socrates
33 On the pinnacle of
34 Triangular sail
35 "Born in the —"
36 Fellows for short
37 Skin art,
38 She sheep
39 Pop



7-25

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-25

CRYPTOQUOTE

RS KOJRDS, YPZ BPO MZS

JMUS PY SMZWK. RS XPRDS,

YPZ BPO MZS JMUS PY NWMZN.

— NSZRLMX CZPESZR

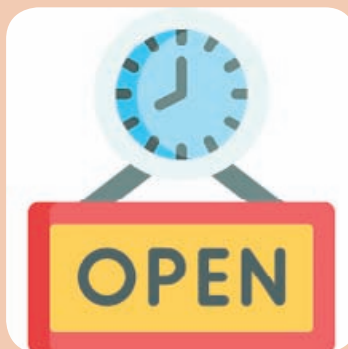
Cryptoquote: HOT JULY BRINGS COOLING SHOWERS, APRICOTS AND GILLYFLOWERS. — SARA COLERIDGE

Cruise ship Schedule: July 17 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	17	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	20	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	22	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	23	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	07.00	16.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	27	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
WED	30	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



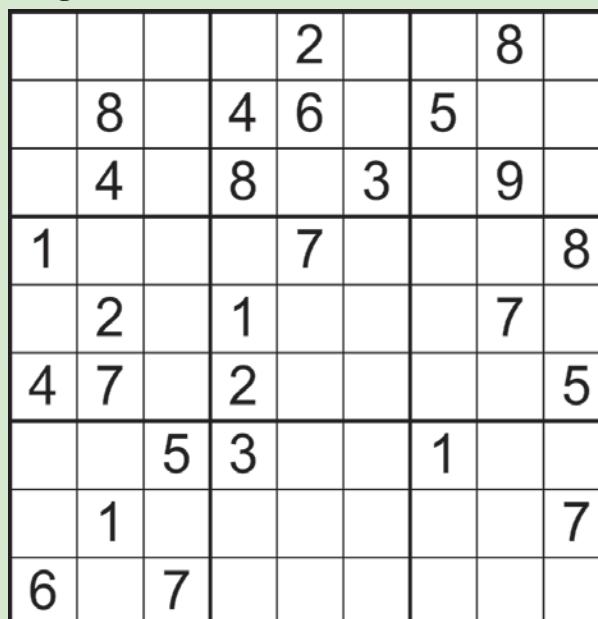
Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/19

Answer to previous puzzle

1	3	6	4	8	2	9	7	5
8	2	7	1	9	5	6	4	3
9	4	5	6	3	7	2	8	1
6	7	3	2	4	9	1	5	8
4	1	9	3	5	8	7	6	2
5	8	2	7	6	1	3	9	4
2	6	4	8	7	3	5	1	9
7	9	1	5	2	4	8	3	6
3	5	8	9	1	6	4	2	7

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/18

Retirees, here's how to tweak the 4% rule to protect your nest egg



This Oct. 24, 2016 file photo shows dollar bills in New York.

Associated Press

Amy Arnott and Ivanna Hampton of Morningstar New retirees might enter a different environment than their predecessors the economy or market might have changed slightly or dramatically.

Morningstar researchers have investigated and identified their latest starting safe withdrawal rate. Hint: it's slightly lower than last year.

Here to discuss this research is Amy Arnott, a portfolio strategist with Morningstar. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: You and your co-authors recently published your annual report on the state of retirement income. Can you talk about the main goal of this research and how it's different from other research that looks at retirement income strategies?

A: The goal was to estimate how much you can safely withdraw from your portfolio during retirement. This is one of the most difficult questions that people will face during their financial lives. When you're saving for retirement, it's pretty straightforward as long as you start early and you're consistent. But when it comes to your retirement portfolio and figuring out how to turn it into a paycheck for yourself, that gets more complicated. There's the danger of run-

ning out of money during retirement, but on the other hand, a lot of people actually end up under-spending. So, there's a balance between spending enough that you can enjoy your retirement, but not spending so aggressively that you might have to cut back later in life.

Most retirement withdrawal research is based on looking at historical market data. This started with William Bengen's landmark paper in 1994, which looked at market data going back to 1926 and figured out the highest withdrawal rate you could have made that would've survived. That's the origin

of the 4% rule.

But we decided that instead of looking at past data, we would do something more forward-looking, using market estimates for possible future returns.

Q: The latest starting safe withdrawal rate for the base case is 3.7%. How did you calculate that number and why is it a conservative estimate?

A: The base case is the foundation of where all our research starts, and it assumes that you want to create a steady paycheck equivalent throughout retirement.

It assumes that you take a certain withdrawal rate, say 4%, and apply that to

your starting portfolio balance. That becomes your first-year portfolio withdrawal, and then each year after that, you adjust that dollar amount for inflation. So you're basically keeping a steady spending amount and never changing it.

The reason it's conservative is that we're looking for a very high probability of success. We're also looking for a very long time horizon, assuming a 30-year retirement period. □

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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

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Oranjestad:

Oduber: Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas:

Aloe: Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Discovery 'Shark Week' has breaching great whites, looks back at 'Jaws' and starts with some dancing

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty years ago, "Jaws" unlocked dread in millions about man-eating sharks. This summer, that fear may be somewhat reduced as they become contestants on a TV dance show. Former "Dancing With the Stars" host Tom Bergeron steps up for a marketing masterstroke by Discovery Channel's "Shark Week" "Dancing with Sharks," where humans and 20-foot-long hammerhead sharks do a little mambo. "I had a decade and a half experience of hosting a dance show, but this one was different," Bergeron tells The Associated Press. "I'd often thought on 'Dancing With the Stars,' wouldn't it be great if we could incorporate another species? And here I've finally got my dream come true."

In the show, five scuba-diving shark handlers use bait to twirl and guide various sharks into mini-waltzes, in what's being billed as "the world's most dangerous dance competition." One contestant wraps his arms around a nerf shark and spoons it. Another takes off her air tank and does a double backflip. A third a hip-hop loving shark handler does an old school head spin on the ocean floor as sharks swirl. "These are some of the best shark handlers in the world. These are people who know the nuances of sharks, know how they move, know how to behave, know how to safely move with them, and they're guiding these sharks along as you would a partner," says Kinga Philipps, a TV correspondent and one of the three judges. "It is so fluid and beautiful, all they really had to do is put a little bit of music to it and they're actually dancing."

It's a shark-a-thon
"Dancing with Sharks" kicks off the week of programming, which includes shows on how to survive



This image released by Warner Bros. Discovery shows Jamie Ferguson interacting with a shark in a scene from "Dancing with the Sharks."

Associated Press

a shark attack, why New Smyrna Beach in Florida has earned the title of "The Shark Attack Capital of the World" and whether a mysterious dark-skinned shark off the coast of California is a mako, mutant or possibly a mako-and-great white hybrid. The seven nights of new shows and a related podcast ends off the Mozambique coast with a once-a-year feeding frenzy that turns into a showdown between the sharks and their massive prey, the giant trevally. One highlight is Paul de Gelder's "How to Survive a Shark Attack," which he has intimate knowledge about. He lost his right hand and leg in 2009 during an attack by a bull shark in Sydney Harbor. "If you're in the jaws of a shark, you want to fight for all of your life. You want to go for the soft parts. You want to go for the eyeball. You want to go for the gills," he says. "But if you're not being attacked by a shark and you're just encountering a shark, then you just want to remain calm."

De Gelder debunks one myth: Punching a charging shark will stop its attack. "If you really want to hurt your own hand, go ahead," he says. A better approach is to not thrash about and gently redirect the animal. "The secret I got taught many years ago was don't act like food and they won't treat you like food." "Shark Week" has become a key part of the summer holiday TV schedule, a place where humans safe on land can see ancient apex predators unnervingly glide into view and snap open their jaws. This year's highlights also include the hunt for a 20-foot great white that can leap into the air "Air Jaws: The Hunt for Colossus" and a show about male and female great whites competing in a series of challenges to determine which sex is the superior predator, naturally called "Great White Sex Battle." Joseph Schneier, senior vice president of production and development at Discovery, says the shows are born from listening to what the diving and science community is seeing,

like pro divers moving artistically with the sharks as they fed them, leading to "Dancing With Sharks." "We realized, well, there's something here that we can go further with," he says. "We're lucky that sharks continue to surprise us. Which helps us get kind of new stories and new things to focus on. That's been the mantra for us the sharks are the stars, not the humans." As always, there is a deep respect for the creatures and strong science beneath the amusing titles, sharky puns, dramatic music and racy titles like "Frankenshark" and "Alien Sharks: Death Down Under." "It's like putting your vegetables in a dessert," says Bergeron. "You get all the allure of a 'Dancing With Sharks' or other specific shows, but in the midst of that you do learn a lot about sharks and ecology and the importance of sharks in the ecosystem. It's all in your strawberry sundae." Discovery's "Shark Week" has a rival National Geographic's "SharkFest," which also has hours of

sharky content. There's also the unconnected shark horror comedy "Hot Spring Shark Attack" and a movie earlier this summer that added a serial killer to a shark movie "Dangerous Animals."

Born from 'Jaws'

"Shark Week" was born as a counterpoint for those who developed a fear of sharks after seeing "Jaws." It has emerged as a destination for scientists eager to protect an animal older than trees.

"'Jaws' helped introduce this country and this world to a predator we're all fascinated with," says Schneier.

"But we also feel 'Jaws' went too far. These are not creatures that are out to hurt humans by any means, but they have had 50-plus million years of evolution to get to this place where they are just excellent predators.

It's fun to celebrate just how good they are at their job."

Kendyl Berna, who co-founded the ecology group Beyond the Reef, and is a veteran on "Shark Week," says studying the ancient beasts can teach humans about changes to the planet.

"So much of the programming this year speaks to what's happening with the rest of the world climate change and how much that affects where sharks are and when they're there and what they're eating," she says.

"As a keystone apex predator, sharks do set the tone for what's happening."

Bergeron says being a part of "Shark Week" for the first time and meeting some of the divers who interact with sharks has actually made him braver.

"I don't think I'm at a point where I could go down there with them and have the sharks swirling around me without a cage. But with a cage, I think I am ready to do that," he says. "Just don't tell my wife." □

Pogačar crushes rivals in brutal uphill time trial and solidifies Tour lead

PEYRAGUDES, France (AP)

—Tadej Pogačar delivered another crushing defeat to his Tour de France rivals by dominating an uphill time trial and reinforcing his grip on the yellow jersey on Friday.

The brutal effort in the Pyrenees mountains was all about strength and stamina. It was just a painful experience offering no respite after already 12 grueling stages of racing. Riders first covered 2.9 kilometers (1.8 miles) to reach the bottom of the climb to Peyragudes, a daunting 8-kilometer (5-mile) ramp with a steep gradient.

On that brutal terrain, Pogačar reigned supreme and killed any suspense. He increased his lead in the general classification to more than four minutes.

"I really wanted to go all out from start to finish, smashing the pedals as much as possible," he said. "I almost blew out in the end but I saw the time on the finish arch and it gave me an extra push because I saw I was going to win."

It was Pogačar's 21st stage win at cycling's biggest race.

Setting off last, the three-



Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates winning the thirteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time-trial over 10.5 kilometers (6.5 miles) in the Pyrenees mountains with start in Loudenvielle and finish in Peyragudes, France, Friday, July 18, 2025.

time Tour champion was faster than everyone else on the flat section, putting five seconds into time trial world champion Remco Evenepoel. Jonas Vingegaard was eight seconds off the pace through the first time check.

Pogačar was even better as soon as the road started to climb and he crossed the finish line at Peyragudes

with a lead of 36 seconds over Vingegaard, his closest challenger. Primož Roglič was third, 1 minute, 20 seconds off the pace.

Pogačar said he rode "on instinct," having decided not to use the race radio. "I suffered a bit with three kilometers to go. I took a deep breath and recovered some power because I knew the last kick was

super steep and I wanted to have somewhat good legs," he added.

Evenepoel cracked in the climb and was overtaken by Vingegaard, who started his effort two minutes after his Belgian rival.

Pogačar, the UAE Team Emirates-XRG leader, cemented his grip on the race during Thursday's first big mountain stage on the

slopes of Hautacam, where he destroyed the field to take the stage win and reclaim the yellow jersey.

Overall, Pogačar has a 4:07 lead over Vingegaard. He has been in dominant form since the start of the season and, barring an accident, his current form leaves little doubt about who will be wearing the yellow jersey when the race finishes in Paris on July 27.

"So far, so good," Pogačar said. "We're just a bit over halfway now and it's still a long way to Paris but if we keep riding like this and don't do any mistake, then we can be satisfied with this margin."

Evenepoel salvaged his third place overall, 7:24 behind the race leader, but he was under threat from Florian Lipowitz, just six more seconds back in fourth place.

After taking a beating in Hautacam, Vingegaard conceded more time to Pogacar but reassured himself by limiting his losses in the time trial.

Unlike Pogačar who used a road bike, Vingegaard opted for a time trial machine and used an aerodynamically designed helmet. □

Associated Press

Damian Lillard returns to the Trail Blazers on a 3-year deal worth \$42 million, AP source says

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard is back where he started.

Lillard signed a three-year deal worth \$42 million to return to the Portland Trail Blazers, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been officially announced.

ESPN first reported the deal. Lillard, 35, was the sixth pick in the 2012 NBA draft by the Trail Blazers and spent 11 seasons with Portland before he was traded to the Milwaukee Bucks just before the 2023-24 season.

However, it might not be Lillard Time in Portland just

yet for the player known for pointing at his wrist after sinking key shots.

Lillard tore his left Achilles tendon during a first-round NBA playoff series against the Indiana Pacers and required surgery, meaning he could miss the entire 2025-26 season. The Bucks had waived him earlier this month and stretched the remaining \$113 million on his contract over five years. Lillard ranked 10th in the league in scoring (24.9) and assists (7.1) this season while earning his ninth All-Star Game selection. But he played only 58 games because of deep vein thrombosis.

Lillard confirmed the deal, posting a video to his Instagram of the Trail Blazers' locker room, ending with a

frame of a locker labeled with his name, followed by the words "Together Again."

He wrote "RipCITY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Lillard averaged 32.2 points his final season in Portland. He became just the seventh player in NBA history to score more than 70 points in a game when he finished with 71 against the Houston Rockets that season. But Portland won only four playoff series during Lillard's tenure, getting to the Western Conference finals once.

Lillard was beloved in Portland and always insisted there are no hard feelings over his separation with the Blazers. He wanted to try and chase a championship with Giannis Antetok-

ounmpo and the Bucks, while Portland was focused on developing young talent, like Scoot Henderson and Shaedon Sharpe.

Lillard, who has a signature shoe deal with Adidas, hinted

ed during an event at the company's North American headquarters in 2024 that some day he might be willing to return to the Trail Blazers. □



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) celebrates after a shot against the Orlando Magic during the second half of an NBA basketball game, March 5, 2023, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Scottie Scheffler with a 64 sets a daunting target at the British Open

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland

(AP) — The rain pounded Royal Portrush right when Scottie Scheffler poured in a birdie putt on his first hole Friday in the British Open. No matter. Nothing stopped the world's No. 1 player on his way to a 7-under 64 to build a one-shot lead going into the weekend.

Scheffler made eight birdies on another wild afternoon of weather at Royal Portrush, and his 15-foot birdie attempt on the 18th stopped inches short for another.

The result was a one-shot lead over former U.S. Open champion Matt Fitzpatrick, who made four straight birdies to start the back nine until he cooled on the home stretch and had to settle for a 66.

The rain was heavy at times but never lasted long. The wind was breezy but never at strength that can cause fits. The scoring was lower, nearly two shots easier than the opening round.

Except for a few chasers, Scheffler made it look like it wasn't enough.

He was at 10-under 132 as he chases the third leg of the career Grand Slam, having won the PGA Championship by five shots in May.

Brian Harman got the best of the weather surprising sunshine and took dead aim in his hunt for another claret jug. Harman played bogey-free for a 64 that left him only two shots behind, along with Li Haotong of China, who had a 67.

Everyone else was five shots



Scottie Scheffler of the United States hits his tee shot on the 8th hole during the second round of the British Open golf championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland, Friday, July 18, 2025.

Associated Press

behind or more.

That includes Rory McIlroy, who went around Royal Portrush in his native Northern Ireland with plenty of cheers but only a few roars. McIlroy had a 69 but lost a lot of ground because of Scheffler, Fitzpatrick and Harman. He started the second round just three shots behind. He goes into the weekend seven shots behind the top-ranked player in the world. Fitzpatrick was at his lowest point just four months ago when he changed his caddy and coach and began pulling himself up. And now he takes that into the weekend against Scheffler.

"He's going to have the expectation to go out and dominate. He's an exceptional player. He's world No.

1, and we're seeing Tiger-like stuff," Fitzpatrick said. "I think the pressure is for him to win the golf tournament. For me, obviously I hope I'm going to have some more home support than him, but it's an exciting position for me to be in given where I was earlier this year."

Fitzpatrick was rolling along until a pair of short putts he missed, from 5 feet for par on the 14th and from 3 feet for birdie on the 17th. Even so, he holed a 25-foot par putt on the final hole and assured him being in the last group at 9-under 133.

Scheffler was sharp from the start. He hit eight of the 14 fairways compared with three in the opening round though his misses never left him too badly out of posi-

tion. But he is seeing the breaks on smoother Portrush greens, and he looks confident as ever.

None of his eight birdies were closer than 7 feet. Five of them were in the 10-foot range and then he threw in a 35-foot birdie on the sixth. His lone bogey came on a drive into deep grass on the 11th that kept him from reaching the green.

The statistics led to a shrug. "Overall, I'm hitting the ball solid," Scheffler said. "The tournament is only halfway done. I got off to a good start."

Harman was called the "Butcher of Hoylake" when he won the claret jug at Royal Liverpool two years ago because the British press was fascinated by the Georgia

native's love for hunting. Now it's about his golf, and it was superb.

Harman played bogey-free, only once having to stress for par as Royal Portrush allowed for some good scoring in weather that again did not live up to its expectation.

Not that anyone was complaining. Temperatures were warm, at least by Irish standards. The breeze was noticeable without being overly punishing.

"They're very different golf courses, but the golf is similar," Harman said. "You've got to be able to flight your golf ball. You've got to know how far everything's going. Then you can't get frustrated. You're going to end up in funny spots where it doesn't seem fair, and you just have to kind of outlast that stuff."

The group at 5-under 137 included Harris English (70), Harman's former teammate at Georgia; Tyrrell Hatton of England (69) and Chris Gotterup (65), who wasn't even planning to be at Royal Portrush until winning the Scottish Open last week.

Also still around is Bryson DeChambeau, who made a 13-shot improvement from the first round with a 65. Still, he was 11 shots behind.

McIlroy wasn't at his best in the opening round and was pleased to be only three behind. Now he has a real mountain to climb. But at least he's still playing, unlike in 2019 at Royal Portrush when he shot 79 and then had a terrific rally only to miss the cut by one shot. □



Ruth Chepngetich, from Kenya, crosses the finish line of the Chicago Marathon to win the women's professional division and break the women's marathon world record in Grant Park on Oct. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

Marathon world record-holder Chepngetich suspended for positive doping test

MONACO (AP) — Women's marathon world record-holder Ruth Chepngetich was provisionally suspended for a positive doping test on Thursday.

Track and field's Athletics Integrity Unit said Chepngetich tested positive for a banned diuretic and masking agent in March and "opted for a voluntary provisional suspension while the AIU's investigation was ongoing."

The Kenyan runner set the world record by almost two minutes at the Chicago Marathon last October in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 56 seconds. It was her third win in Chicago.

She also won the marathon at the 2019 world championships in Qatar, where the women's race started at midnight to avoid extreme daytime heat. The AIU gave no timetable for a disciplinary case for

the 30-year-old runner. Chepngetich was interviewed in person in Kenya in April and "complied with requests regarding our investigation," AIU official Brett Clothier said in a statement.

The substance Chepngetich tested positive for, hydrochlorothiazide or HCTZ, can be used to disguise the use of performance-enhancing drugs. □